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his view may account for some of the variations, but even in these cases something more is needed to explain the concomitant changes.

4. Variation of the costal elements at one end of a region is often associated with variation of an opposite nature of those at the other end. Several regions may be involved, and the two sides may vary independently.

5. Variations, which separately seem either reversive or progressive, generally lose that appearance when the whole spine is considered.

6. After the occurrence of the original error in development there is a tendency for the spine to assume as nearly as possible its normal disposition and proportions. This, as do also concomitant variations and indeed all development, implies a "vital principle."

These deductions of the author naturally invite discussion; but it will be of advantage if this be deferred until the material bearing on the points in question is still more abundant and the observations extended. Conclusions of this nature apply not only to the part under consideration but largely to the whole skeleton.

A. H.

**Notes.**—Four "Cruciform Structures near Mitla" are described by Mr. M. H. Saville in Vol. XIII of the *Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History*. After a scholarly summary of the history of previous explorations at Mitla the author confines his attention to the cruciform burial chambers which are unique in form and surpass all other tombs in Mexico or Central America in size and in beauty of stone work.

"A Bilateral Division of the Parietal Bone in a Chimpanzee; with a special Reference to the Oblique Sutures in the Parietal," is the subject of a paper by Dr. Aleš Hrdlička, appearing in the same volume. It contains a detailed description of the skull of an adult male chimpanzee, with a discussion of the important problems connected with the abnormal parietal sutures. An oblique suture, the author believes, can be attributed to only three possible causes, as follows: an early fracture, a persistence of the original separation between the two centers from which the bone is developed, and a coexistent difference between their relative positions; the existence of a supernumerary third center of ossification. The brochure is illustrated by six outline drawings.

In the *Report of the Museums Association of the United Kingdom* for 1898 Mr. Harlan I. Smith advises an "ethnological arrangement

of archæological material," and suggests a classification under thirteen main divisions of such material, with a view to illustrating ancient tribal life and ethnology. This method would make the specimens aid in solving problems and would find a use for many now discarded as unworthy of attention.

The *Report* for 1899 contains a paper by Mr. Smith upon "the preservation of local archæological evidences," showing the danger of their obliteration by man and nature, and the necessity of systematic explorations in this country as well as in foreign lands. More accurate and complete records should be kept by means of indices and catalogues. Mr. Smith makes suggestions for local work under the auspices of state universities and historical societies.

An interesting example of "psycho-physical study" is given in Mr. Arthur MacDonald's "Emile Zola," reprinted from *The Open Court*, August, 1898. This study was made by a number of French specialists, and the result published with the approval of the subject. Among the characteristics investigated are antecedents, mental evolution, physical peculiarities, the nervous system, ideas, sentiments, and will. This empirical method is employed in order that we may come to have somatology of the living as well as of the dead, and thus gain a knowledge that will be of practical use in ameliorating social conditions.

In the *Bulletin* (Vol. VIII, No. 2) of the French Society of Anthropology, M. Zaborowsky discusses at some length the problems of the racial unity and the place of origin of the Slavs. He concludes that:

1. The Slavs of the North came from the region between the Danube and the Adriatic. They were related to the neighboring inhabitants of the terramare of Emilia. The migrants may have been drawn toward the north by the trade in amber.

2. They passed the Carpathians through the valleys of the Oder and Vistula, following especially the latter to the vicinity of the Baltic, where they developed an independent culture.

3. The Slavs introduced the custom of cremation, until then unknown. They brought metals and glass; iron was used for ornament only.

4. They formed a branch or included the tribes of the Venedes of the Adriatic; the name Venedes dates back in the Baltic region to the fourth century before our era.

5. By their dominant characters they approach the French Keltic type. The southern Slavs are dark and brachycephalic. To the

northward of the Carpathians they encountered a neolithic blond population which they absorbed and in part perpetuated in certain regions.

6. Upon the Oder, the lower Vistula, and along the Baltic coast, where they have pushed back the Finns toward the east, their culture was modified by contact with the Germans from Scandinavia.

F. R.

## ZOOLOGY.

**Evermann and Marsh on the Fishes of Porto Rico.**—One of the most thoroughly admirable of faunal works is the report on the *Aquatic Resources and Fisheries of Porto Rico*, just published by the United States Fish Commission. The authors are Dr. Barton Warren Evermann and Millard C. Marsh.

In this work are given full descriptions of 291 species, arranged systematically, with analytical keys and numerous figures in the text. A general discussion of the waters and of the geographical features of the island is given by Dr. Evermann, and a chapter on the fish trade and fishing methods by William A. Willcox.

The work is illustrated by 49 colored plates, by C. B. Hudson and A. H. Baldwin. The accuracy and excellence of these plates cannot be too highly praised. Without invidious comparisons we may doubt if any plates of fishes ever published excel in fineness of coloration some of these (as the Nassau Grouper, Plate XII, and the Red Hind, Plate XIII) by Mr. Hudson.

The nomenclature and definitions of groups are taken chiefly from Jordan and Evermann's *Fishes of North America*, and the new species are mostly described in the final appendix to that work.

Those not thus included are the following:

<i>Aphthalmichthys caribbeus</i> , Gill and Smith, San Geronimo.	<i>Sphagebranchus ophioncus</i> , Mayaguez.
<i>Lycodontis albimentis</i> , Culebra Island.	<i>Apogon sellicauda</i> , Culebra Island.
<i>Mycteroperca bowersi</i> , Culebra.	<i>Neomænis megalophthalmus</i> , Puerto Real.
<i>Scorpena albifimbria</i> , Culebutas.	<i>Scorpena bergi</i> , Mayaguez.
<i>Pontinus beanorum</i> , San Juan.	<i>Emblemaria pandionis</i> , Isabel Segunda.
<i>Citharichthys arenaceus</i> , Mayaguez.	<i>Halieutichthys smithi</i> , Mayaguez.

The name *Peprilus* is substituted for *Rhombus*, preoccupied in mollusks. A few other changes in the nomenclature, adopted from Jordan and Evermann, will be found necessary. These may be